

Contact: Jack O. Kearbey (573) 364-2088 Ext. 4

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$13,652 GRANT TO THE SALEM LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Anita J. Dunning, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, hosted a mock check presentation on November 18, 2010, at the Salem Public Library. The library received \$13,652 to fund the project through the Community Facility Direct Loan and Grant programs Library Initiative. The group will use the funds to purchase needed equipment for the library.

The Secretary of Agriculture wishes to provide funding through the USDA's Community Facilities funds for public libraries. This program emphasis will provide educational opportunities and improve public services in rural communities. Public libraries not only play a vital role in educating their patrons, they also enhance the economic vitality of a rural community. Rural business owners receive an array of information resources at the public library. The educational opportunities afforded create more productive employees for rural businesses.

"I'm pleased to hear competitive grant funds are being used to upgrade the Salem Public Library," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "The continued services of libraries in southeast Missouri and across the state will ensure that residents have access to essential community resources."

Glenda Wofford, Treasurer of the Salem Library Improvement Board, said, "I am pleased that the Salem Public Library was given the opportunity to participate in the USDA Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program. Competitive grants give small rural libraries an opportunity to acquire needed furnishings and equipment."

"Because we are a city library and operate on such a shoestring budget, we are appreciative of any grant monies we can obtain. This USDA grant/loan will help us to get some much needed furniture and equipment." Salem Library Improvement Board said.

Dunning, said "Funding important projects like this for essential library equipment mirrors President Obama's initiatives for rural America and Rural Development's commitment to the future of rural communities. Appreciation is also extended to our Federal elected officials for supporting USDA



Front row, left to right: Glenda Wofford, Treasurer, Salem Library Improvement Board; Janie Dunning, Rural Development Missouri State Director; Megan Hammer, Senator McCaskill's staff. Back Row: Left to right-Terry Luetkemeyer, Rural Development Area Director, and Jack Kearbey, Rural Development Area Specialist

Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Jack O. Kearbey, Area Specialist, at the Rolla Sub-Area Office of USDA Rural Development at 1050 Highway 72 East, Rolla, MO 65401 or by calling (573) 364-2088 Ext. 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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